

CLAIMS

1. A vehicle door comprising:

an inner panel; an outer panel operatively connected to the inner panel such that the inner panel and the outer panel define a door cavity therebetween; and an
5 impact beam connected to at least one of the inner panel and the outer panel such that at least a portion of the impact beam is outboard of the outer panel.
2. The vehicle door of claim 1, wherein the outer panel is characterized by an outboard surface; and wherein the outboard surface defines a concavity in which at least a portion of the impact beam is located.
3. The vehicle door of claim 1, wherein at least a portion of the impact beam is concealed from view by a rub strip.
4. The vehicle door of claim 3, wherein the rub strip is integrally connected to the impact beam.
5. The vehicle door of claim 4, wherein the rub strip is comprised of a material that is molded around at least a portion of the impact beam.
6. The vehicle door of claim 1, wherein the door is characterized by a first wall and a second wall; wherein the door further comprises a hinge operatively connected to the first wall and a latch operatively connected to the second wall; and wherein the impact beam is operatively connected to the first wall and the second wall to
5 transfer side impact loads to the hinge and the latch.
7. A side impact member for a vehicle door, the side impact member comprising an impact beam and a rub strip material connected to the impact beam.

8. The side impact member of claim 7, wherein the vehicle door includes an outer panel, and wherein the impact beam and rub strip material are matable to the vehicle door such that at least a portion of the impact beam is outboard of the outer panel and the rub strip material conceals at least a portion of the impact beam from view.

9. The side impact member of claim 7, wherein the rub strip material is molded around at least a portion of the impact beam.

10. The side impact member of claim 7, wherein the vehicle door includes a first wall, a second wall, a hinge operatively connected to the first wall, and a latch operatively connected to the second wall; and wherein the side impact member further comprises a first plate at a first end of the impact beam operatively connectable to the first wall to transfer impact loads to the hinge, and a second plate at a second end of the impact beam operatively connectable to the second wall to transfer impact loads to the latch.

11. A vehicle door comprising:

an outer panel having an outboard surface defining a concavity;

5 an inner panel operatively connected to the outer panel such that the inner panel and the outer panel define a door cavity therebetween, the inner panel including a forward wall and a rearward wall;

10 an impact beam operatively connected to the forward wall and the rearward wall such that at least a portion of the impact beam is outboard of the outer panel and located within the concavity; and

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a rub strip material operatively connected at least a portion of the impact beam such that at least a portion of the impact beam is concealed from view.